

State for their outstanding work both on their farms and in their communities. This recognition is a reflection of the contribution to agriculture at the community and State level and its implications for improved farm practices and management. The Longs are well deserving of this honor.

I congratulate Heath and Betsy and their daughters, Shelby and Sydney, for their outstanding achievements in agriculture and ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring them for this accomplishment. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors and look forward to the contributions they will offer in the future to Arkansas agriculture.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE RISKa

● Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the career of the executive director of the Delaware Nature Society, Michael E. Riska. Mike is retiring this year after serving as executive director for 28 wonderful years spent opening the minds and hearts of Delawareans young and old to the splendor of our natural world.

Mike Riska attended West Chester University and earned a bachelor of science with a double major in biology and physical education. He also earned his master's in education in Natural Science from the University of Delaware. He is a certified teacher in biology, general science, health, and physical education.

Truly devoted to educating students in the natural sciences, Mike began his career as a teacher at the Tatnall School in Greenville, DE. He taught science to students in the first through eighth grades and taught eight 5-week upper-school marine ecology courses based on Sanibel Island, FL.

Mike took his love of science and education to the Delaware Nature Society in 1969, where he started as a part-time instructor and youth programs director. He was part of the initiative to transform the H.B. DuPont Farm into a learning environment for students across Delaware. For my first job, as a seventh grader, I was hired by Mike to assist other Delaware youngsters in building the trails that would soon become Ashland Nature Center. Every year thousands of students, including my own children, attend summer camps and class field trips at the Ashland Nature Center, where they learn about nature, ecology, and conservation.

Mike Riska was appointed to executive director of the Delaware Nature Society in 1984, just the third person to serve in this capacity. With Mike at the helm, the Delaware Nature Society earned record donations for furthering its mission of fostering understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural world through education. The society also worked to preserve ecologically significant areas and advocate stewardship and conservation of natural resources.

Mike has been recognized with several awards, including the Nature Conservancy Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award in 1997, an Exceptional Leadership Award from the Association of Nature Center Administrators' Board of Directors in 1999, and the 1999 President's Award of Association of Nature Center Administrators for dedication and service to the nature center profession. The Association of Nature Center Administrators recognized him as the recipient of its 2002 Leadership Award.

Mike has worked closely with several other Delaware nature conservancy organizations and is admired and respected by his peers. Andrew Manus, director of conservation programs of the Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, said:

Let me add my voice of congratulations to others who have benefitted from the years of dedicated service that Mike Riska has brought to conservation in Delaware. The Delaware Nature Society has been well served by his leadership, as has the greater conservation community in Delaware. Mike's thoughtful advocacy for the natural world in Delaware will be his endearing legacy for us all to enjoy.

Roger L. Jones, State director of the Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, stated:

Mike Riska's legacy is very simple—he instilled a passion for nature and a boundless commitment for protecting our environment within thousands of people in Delaware.

Lorraine Fleming, 2005 Delaware Audubon Conservation Award recipient, said:

Natural science and environmental education is Mike Riska's first love. It has been the foundation for his visionary leadership of the Delaware Nature Society over 28 years as executive director and before that as assistant director. Recognition and cultivation of staff and volunteers is Mike's natural strength. While he is always quick to give credit to his staff members and the society's large cadre of volunteers, the overall direction and support for DNS' accomplishments has consistently come from Mike. Mike's legacy is an enduring preeminent Delaware environmental organization that is nationally renowned among nature centers.

Mr. President, today I honor Mike Riska's legacy and accomplishments at the Delaware Nature Society. It is an honor to call him my first boss, a fellow advocate, and my friend.●

KATHERINE BOMKAMP AND WVU

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Katherine Bomkamp, a promising sophomore at West Virginia University, WVU, who invented a new prosthesis that reduces phantom pain for amputees, including many returning veterans. Last month, she was in New York City being honored by Glamour magazine as one of its "21 Amazing Young Women of 2011," to celebrate the 21st anniversary of its Women of the Year awards.

At the age of 16, following frequent visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Center while her father was stationed at the Pentagon with the U.S. Air

Force, Katherine conceptualized the "pain free socket," a prosthetic device that combats the phantom limb pain experienced by 80 percent of amputees. After two-and-a-half years of research, Katherine is now at West Virginia University, where the WVU Entrepreneurship Center is helping her obtain a patent for the device and find funding to make it available for injured veterans and other patients. The WVU Entrepreneurship Center is playing an important role in helping Katherine commercialize the "pain free socket." It is a great example of how America's research universities are supporting innovative entrepreneurs, whose ideas are vital to economic growth today.

Ms. Bomkamp didn't just sit on the sidelines and feel sorrow for the afflicted men and women she encountered at Walter Reed. She listened to their stories and learned that many amputees experienced phantom pain, the feeling of pain in an absent limb.

By researching the topic, Katherine found that no medications have been approved for specifically treating phantom pain. Instead, many amputees are prescribed antipsychotics and barbiturates, treatments that can be expensive and highly addictive.

For a 10th-grade science project, Katherine decided to leap into action. She created the "Pain Free Socket," incorporating thermal biofeedback into prosthetics to eliminate phantom pain in amputees. Phantom pain is caused by the brain continuing to send signals and commands to the limb. Bomkamp's device would help force the brain to focus on the heat produced through thermal biofeedback, rather than sending signals to the nonexistent limb.

Katherine Bomkamp deserves our praise and educational enrichment. She was the first WVU student to be inducted into the National Museum of Education's National Gallery for America's Young Inventors. Now that she is one of the "21 Amazing Young Women of 2011," the sky is the limit for what she might achieve.

Success stories such as this one show us that academic and student innovation are alive and well at universities such as WVU, and promise a brighter future for all Americans. It is essential that as we in Congress review our budget priorities, even in the midst of today's financial pressures, we continue—or even expand—our support of higher education and students like Katherine Bomkamp.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. COTTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Richard L. Cotta on the occasion of his retirement from California Dairies, Inc., CDI.

Since 2007 Richard has held the title of president and CEO of California Dairies, Inc., CDI. He has spent his entire career in the dairy industry in virtually all aspects of the business.

Richard Cotta's career at CDI began in 1993, when he joined San Joaquin